

W I V E N H O E U R B A N

D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L

ANNUAL

REPORT

OF THE
M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

and

S U R V E Y O R and P U B L I C H E A L T H
I N S P E C T O R

FOR THE YEAR

1 9 7 0



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1.

Lexden Grange,
127 Lexden Road,
Colchester, Essex.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the
Health and Vital Statistics of the District for the year 1970.

I have to thank the Members of the Council and the Council's
Staff for their assistance during year.

I have the honour to be,
Your Obedient Servant,

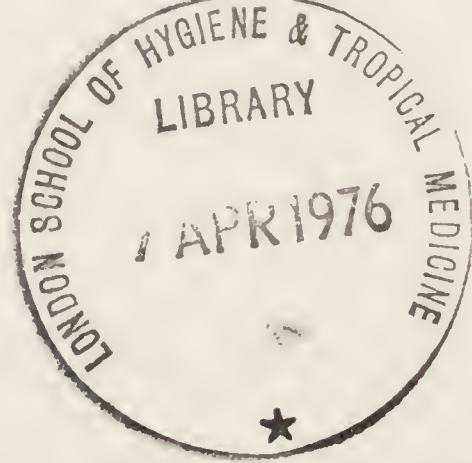
S. MACMILLAN

Medical Officer of Health



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STAFF

Medical Officer of Health SYLVIA MACMILLAN, M.R.C.S., I.R.C.P., M.B.B.S., D.P.H.,
Appointed 1st April, 1966 (Time shared with two neighbouring Authorities
and the County Council.)

Public Health Inspector and Surveyor J. KELLY, M.A.P.H.I.,

Assistant to the Public Health Inspector and Surveyor M.C. WALKER,
A.R.S.H., M.R.P.A.

COMMITTEES CONCERNED WITH PUBLIC HEALTH

Public Health Committee - Chairman Councillor E.E.J. Westlake

Highways & Water Committee - Chairman Councillor E.J. Hatch

Housing Committee - Chairman Councillor T.M. Endean

Finance & General Purposes Committee - Chairman Councillor Miss B.A. Grasby

Chairman of the Council - Councillor W. Sparrow

Clerk to the Council - W. Trickett, A.C.I.S.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (acres)	1,493
Registrar General's estimate of resident population	4,580
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1970) according to Rate Book	1,530
Rateable Value	142,702
Sum represented by a penny rate	£690

The district is situated on the east bank of the river Colne where its waters are tidal. It is about four miles down the river from Colchester, and it is also on the main line from London to Clacton-on-Sea. Local industries are shipbuilding, general engineering, agriculture and clothing manufacture. It is also a small yachting and fishing centre. Half the working population find their employment outside the district.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL
STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
LIVE BIRTHS (All ..)	41	39	80
(Legitimate ..)	40	38	78
(Illegitimate ..)	1	1	2
Birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population			17.5
Comparability factor			1.01
Corrected rate			17.7
England and Wales			16.0
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
STILL BIRTHS	1	2	3
Still birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) babies ..			36
Total births (live and still births)			83
INFANTS DEATHS			
Under 1 year			2
Under 4 weeks			1
In first week			1
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births			25
Infant mortality England and Wales			18
Neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 live births			13
Neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 live births (England and Wales) ..			12
Early neonatal mortality rate (first week) per 1,000 related births			13
Early neonatal mortality rate (first week) per 1,000 related births in England and Wales			11
Perinatal mortality rate (still births plus deaths during first week per 1,000 total live and still births)			48
Perinatal mortality rate (England and Wales)			23
Maternal deaths			0
Maternal mortality rate			0
Total deaths			35
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population			7.4
Comparability factor			1.14
Corrected death rate			8.7
England and Wales			11.7

Deaths in various age groups (local statistics)

Under 4 weeks	1	35-45 years	0
4 weeks - 1 year	1	45-55 years	0
1-5 years	0	55-65 years	1
5-15 years	0	65-75 years	14
15-25 years	1	75 years and over	16
25-35 years	1		

Causes of Death

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Malignant neoplasm, Stomach	1	0	1
Malignant neoplasm, Intestine	1	0	1
Malignant neoplasm, Long, Bronchus	3	0	3
Malignant neoplasm, Breast	0	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, Prostate	1	0	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms	2	4	6
Diabetes Mellitus	0	1	1
Ischaemic Heart Disease	7	3	10
Cerebrovascular Disease	0	1	1
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	2	1	3
Pneumonia	0	1	1
Bronchitis and Emphysema	0	1	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	0	1
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	1	0	1
Congenital Anomalies	1	0	1
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	1	0	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	0	1
	<u>22</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>35</u>
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	22	13	35

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS 1948/51

No action under this Act was necessary.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities

Pathological specimens are sent to the laboratory at the Essex County Hospital, Colchester.

Samples of water are sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Woodbridge Road, Ipswich, when a bacteriological analysis is required, and to the counties Public Health Laboratory, 66 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1., when a chemical or complete analysis is required.

Samples of food and ice cream etc., are examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Ipswich.

Ambulance Facilities

Non-emergency calls are not accepted from the general public.

To obtain an ambulance in an emergency it is merely necessary to lift the receiver and ask for an ambulance.

If there is a dialling system in operation, dial '999' or '100' and ask for ambulance.

HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL

Child health	Innoculation against measles, diptheria,
Pre-natal and post-natal clinics	whooping cough, tetanus, poliomyelitis,
Relaxation and mothercraft	tuberculosis and german measles.
Home nursing	Provision of nursing equipment
Home Help	School health service.
Mental health	

Cervical Cytology clinic is held at Central Health Services Clinic, East Lodge Court, High Street, Colchester every Thursday at 9.30 am: Col. 79411.

Relaxation Clinics and Mothercraft, Central Clinic, East Lodge Court, Colchester: Monday morning, Tuesday morning and afternoon, Thursday morning and afternoon, Friday morning and afternoon.

Child Health Clinics are held at the Wivenhoe Public Hall every Tuesday at 2.00 pm.

Assistance from the Home Help Service is obtained by communicating with the Home Help Organiser, Park Road, Colchester. Col. 79511.

Family Planning Association - Clinics are held at the following:

- (1) Essex County Hospital, Mondays and Thursdays, 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm
- (2) Monkwick Health Services Clinic, Tuesdays, 6 pm to 9 pm
- (3) Tiptree Health Services Clinici, 1st & 3rd Thursday in the month, 6 pm to 9 pm

REPORT OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1. Mains Water Supply The Tendring Hundred Waterworks Co. continued as the statutory undertaking responsible for the supply of water throughout the Council's district. From the reports below, for which I am indebted to their Chief Engineer, Mr. J.A.W. Rayner, C.Eng., M.I.C.E., M.I.W.E., A.M.B.I.M., it will be readily seen a wholesome supply has been given and it has been in sufficient quantity.

The amount of water supplied to Wivenhoe in the 12 months ended 31st December, 1970 amounted to 74.126 million gallons, an average daily consumption of 0.203 million gallons. The total quantity taken for domestic purposes during the year was 45.009 million gallons, an average daily consumption of 0.123 million gallons. The total amount taken through trade meters was 29.027 million gallons, an average daily consumption of 0.080 million gallons.

The total number of connections (domestic and trade) made in the year to the Company's mains in the Urban District, amounted to 53. Approximately 619 yards of new mains of 3" and 4" diameter have been laid in the Wivenhoe district during the year.

Bacteriological and Chemical Analyses

Queens Road Pumping Station - 17th September, 1970

Chemical Results in Parts Per Million

Colour	NIL	Albuminiod Nitrogen	0.00
pH.	7.9	Metals (iron)	0.04
Electric Conductivity	1800	Turbidity	NIL
Chlorine present as Chloride	420	Odour	NIL
Hardness: Total	125	Free Carbon Dioxide	8
Carbonate	125	Alkalinity as Calcium	300
Non-Carbonate	0	Carbonate	
Nitrate Nitrogen	0.0	Nitrite Nitrogen	ABSENT
Ammonical Nitrogen	1.1	Oxygen absorbed	0.30
		Residual chlorine	0.09

Bacteriological Results

No. of Colonies	<u>1 day at 37°C</u>	<u>2 days at 37°C</u>	<u>3 days at 20°C</u>
Developing on Agar	0 per ml.	0 per ml.	0 per ml.
	Present in	Absent from	Probable No.
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction	0 ml.	100 ml.	0 per ml.
Bact. Coli (type 1)	0 ml.	100 ml.	0 per ml.
Cl. Welchii Reaction	0 ml.	100 ml.	

Remarks This sample is clear and bright in appearance, has a reaction on the alkaline side of neutrality and is free from metals apart from a very minute trace of iron. The hardness of the water is very moderate. The somewhat high content of mineral and saline constituents is atypical of this source. The water conforms to the highest standards of organic quality and bacterial purity.

These results indicate a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic uses. Its known content of fluorine is, however, greater than the amount considered most desirable (from the aspect of causing mottled enamel). A slight taste due to the content of sodium chloride may be noticeable to some customers.

Dedham Pumping Station

Chemical Results in Parts Per Million

Colour	3	Turbidity	0.5
pH.	7.7	Odour	NIL
Electric Conductivity	885	Free Carbon Dioxide	13
Chlorine present as Chloride	128	Total Solids	590
Hardness: Total	295	Alkalinity as Calcium	
Carbonate	267	Carbonate	267
Non-Carbonate	28	Nitrite Nitrogen	ABSENT
Nitrate Nitrogen	0.30	Oxygen-absorbed	0.25
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.52	Residual chlorine	0.24
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.1		
Metals (iron)	0.13		

Bacteriological Results

No. of Colonies	<u>1 day at 37°C</u>	<u>2 days at 37°C</u>	<u>3 days at 20°C</u>
Developing on Agar	0 per ml.	0 per ml.	0 per ml.
	Present in	Absent from	Probable No.
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes reaction	0 ml.	100 ml.	0 per ml.
Bact. Coli(type 1)	0 ml.	100 ml.	0 per ml.
Cl. Welchii Reaction	0 ml.	100 ml.	

Remarks These samples are practically clear and bright in appearance, have a reaction on the alkaline side of neutrality and are free from metals apart from a minute trace of iron. The water is hard in character but its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are not excessive. It conforms to the highest standard of organic quality and bacterial purity.

These results are indicative of a water which is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for public supply purposes.

All samples were analysed by the Counties Public Health Laboratories.

2. Sewers and Sewage Disposal. The normal routine maintenance of the Pumping Station and Sewage Works was carried out during the year. As in previous years, the pumps required further repairs due to valve trouble and overloading. The electrical system controlling the pumps was also overhauled. During the latter part of the year, however, a major defect was found in the cast iron final effluent discharge pipe and this gave cause for serious concern. The pipe was holed and cracked in several places and the walls had become eroded and worn thin over the years. Temporary repairs were immediately carried out by the Council's direct labour department. This further emphasised the need for the second stage of the Wivenhoe Sewer Scheme, for which surveys had been completed and a draft plan already approved by the Council. It is anticipated that work on this scheme will commence **early next year**.

One serious sewage blockage occurred during the year, this being located on the length of 9" sewer between Queens Road and Brook Street, causing pollution of the Town Ditch. The blockage was cleared by direct labour and the Ditch cleaned out and treated with a highly concentrated disinfectant.

During the year, 454 new connections were made to the sewerage system. This consisted of the following:-

Alterations and Extensions to provide Bathroom	35
New Dwelling Houses	54
New Flats (2 No. Tower Blocks at Essex University)	365
	<hr/>
	454
	<hr/>

3. Public Cleansing. The refuse tip has continued to give satisfactory facilities with further excavations for covering material, thus providing additional tipping area.

The refuse **collection** vehicle has continued to give a satisfactory service without any major breakdowns and the collection service has been maintained throughout the year.

The Refuse Tip has been open on the first Saturday morning of each month during the year for the deposit of household refuse.

All road gullies have been cleaned out twice during the year and the litter baskets emptied weekly.

4. Public Conveniences. All the public conveniences have been cleaned out daily during the year.

The cemetery toilets have been repainted both internally and externally.

The Car Park toilets were damaged by vandals, a number of panes of glass being broken and the bulkhead lamp being smashed.

5. Council House Maintenance. The normal routine repairs have been carried out during the year.

The central heating systems in the Phase II Housing (Rosabelle Avenue/Vanessa Drive - 6 houses) gave cause for investigation. In particular, the radiators in the hall and kitchen of these houses were not heating satisfactorily due to faulty circulation and it was decided that circulating pumps be fitted. The systems have since been operating satisfactorily.

The following requests were made by tenants during the year and approved by the Council:-

<u>Item</u>	<u>No. of Requests</u>
(1) To install immersion heaters	2
(2) Additional electric power points	2
(3) To install extractor fan in kitchen	1

6. Housing. The rate of building rose more rapidly this year (from 34 dwellings in 1969 to 54 this year). An increase of approximately 63 per cent.

Two University Tower blocks were completed during the year.

Seven Aged Persons' Council Bungalows were under construction at the end of the year.

Approval was given to 14 applications for Standard Grants and £2,116 was paid to owners of ten properties for work completed.

7. New Buildings. 129 plans for either new buildings or alterations were deposited for Building Regulation Approval and 50 for Town and Country Planning Approval. This was a reduction of 65 applications compared with last year.
8. Roads. Three new roads were named during the year on the Valley Road Estate, viz: Sandford Close, Bobbits Way and The Nook.

Re-numbering of properties in The Avenue, Park Road and Rectory Road was carried out.

The first stage of a resurfacing programme to carriageways and footways on the Vine Farm and Broomfield Estates was completed, this consisting of the resurfacing with fine cold asphalt approximately 450 square yards of footways in Heath Road.

"Give Way" double white warning lines at all main junctions were re-painted during the year.

Queens Road Private Street Works (eastern end) was completed and adopted by the Council.

9. Food. The following meat and tinned foods which were unfit for human consumption were surrendered to the Council and destroyed.

<u>Meat, meat product or other food.</u>	<u>Reason.</u>
2 No. 10 lb tins Apricots	'Blown' tins
1 No. 1 lb tin Peaches	" tin
10 lbs Topside	Decomposition
78 lbs Steak	"
21 lbs Brisket	"
49 lbs Pork	"
8 lbs Lamb	"
10 lbs Pigs Liver	"

In addition, a complaint was received from a local resident regarding ill effects following the consumption of pork sausages and food poisoning was suspected. Following the analysis of a specimen however, no food organisms were found.

10. Prevention of Damage by Pests Act. The incidence of rodent infestation was slightly down compared with last year. The number of wasps' nests destroyed fell slightly this year from 25 to 20. The heaviest period being July/August.

Rodent Control

Properties inspected	35	Infested properties treated	30
Rat infestation found	30	Block control treatment	1
Mice infestation found	2	Notices served	Nil

ANALYSIS OF INSPECTIONS

Public Health Act	190	Food Premises	18
Sewers	56	Factories	40
Refuse	48	Pests Act	35
Street Lighting	270	Public Hall	30
Playing Fields	103	Car Park	26
Cemetery	65	Highways	62
Churchyard	29	Public Conveniences	45
Council House Maintenance	450		

Notices Served

Public Health Act	(Informal)	Served	17
		Abated	17

